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REMARKS


By the above amendments, claims 1-16, 22-25, and 28-32 are canceled, and claims 17 and 21 are amended. Claim 17 has been re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of canceled claim 1, and claim 21 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Thus, claims 17-21, 26-27, and 33-40 are now pending in this application.

The amendments and claim cancellations made herein are based on the January 21, 2005, Written Opinion issued in connection with PCT/US03/26645, which is the International Application upon which this application is based. In the Written Opinion, the International Preliminary Examination Authority indicated the allowability of claims 17-21, 26-27, and 33-40. Thus, as Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is allowable as amended herein.

Accordingly, favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: May 3, 2006


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